

REMARKS

In response to the action, applicant amended claims 1, 6, 8 and 10. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the amendment and the following remarks.

Applicant amended claims 1, 6 and 10 to include the plurality of mixing structures including a series of peaks and valleys. The specification at paragraph 25, lines 4 to 7 provides a basis for the amendment. Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment enters no new matter.

The action rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. In particular, claim 8 lacked a proper basis for periodic pitch. In response to the rejection, Applicant has provided a basis for "periodic pitch" in claim 8. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 8, as amended, has proper form.

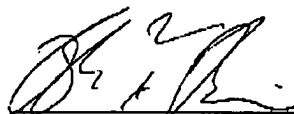
The action rejects claims 1, 6 to 7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakajima's US Pat. No. 6,159,088. Applicant amended claims 1, 6 and 10 to include the plurality of mixing structures having a series of peaks and valleys. Nakajima discloses grooves having "extending portions" 220 and 230, but does not disclose a series of peaks and valleys. Unlike Nakajima, the claimed peaks and valleys enhance top-to-bottom mixing of the polishing solution in the groove. Applicant respectfully submits that since Nakajima does not disclose a series of peaks and valleys or suggest top-to-bottom mixing of the polishing solution, claims 1, 6 to 7 and 10, as amended, are not anticipated or suggested by the cited reference.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims are in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the amended claims. If a call would expedite prosecution, please call me at (302) 283-2136.

Respectfully submitted,

12-15-04

Date



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